

## Resident and Fellow Section (AMA-RFS)

Delegate

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### Name

Joey Thomas Whelihan

### Credentials

MD

### Pronouns

He/Him



### Statement of interest

I am thrilled to announce my candidacy for RFS Delegate, drawing on my experience as the RFS Alternate Delegate this past year. This position is not just about representing our Section; it's about driving tangible change and fostering inclusivity within our delegation. Working closely with the current Delegate, I've actively pursued initiatives that have significantly enhanced the experience for our RFS members. I am truly passionate about this role and the potential it holds for our RFS members.

My tenure as the RFS Alternate Delegate has provided invaluable insights into the workings of the RFS Governing Council and the intricacies of policy-making within our organization. Collaborating closely with the current Delegate, I've gained firsthand experience in navigating the complexities of governance while advocating for evidence-based, equity-focused healthcare.

My leadership roles within the AMA and the American Academy of Pediatrics have honed my ability to craft and advocate for policies that promote LGBTQ+ and reproductive healthcare rights nationally. These experiences, coupled with my unwavering commitment to bridging the gap between clinical practice and scientific research, uniquely position me to represent the interests of our diverse RFS membership effectively.

As RFS Delegate, I will persist in advocating for the voices and needs of our members. I am deeply committed to fostering an inclusive environment where every member feels heard and

valued. Together, we will strive to remove barriers to care, promote health equity, and build a future where all individuals can thrive.

## **Diversity statement**

Being a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I have personally experienced the significance of equitable healthcare access and the need for policies that ensure the well-being of all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. My journey as a gay man has strengthened my commitment to advocating for health equity, especially for marginalized populations. It is crucial that the RFS Governing Council reflects the multifaceted nature of healthcare, ensuring that the voices of LGBTQ+ individuals and other communities who have been marginalized are heard and valued.

If selected to serve as the RFS Delegate, I am dedicated to advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion in healthcare policy-making.